THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Health being a State subject, information is not maintained centrally. Quacks do not possess the qualification prescribed by various councils in respective systems of medicine.

(c) and (d) Provisions already exist in the the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, to take action against unregistered practitioners of medicine. However, to make deterrent provision, Central Government initiated steps to formulate a model legislative proposal but no final view has been taken.

Subsidy on AIDS drugs

2050. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drug manufacturers have agreed to make HIV/AIDS drugs available at lower prices;

(b) if so, the new princing range of the drugs;

(c) whether Government propose to give further subsidy on the cost of the medicines so that the drugs are available to poorer sections of the society also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government and industry are in dialogue over the modalities of making HIV/AIDS drugs available at lower prices.

(c) and (d) Government is actively contemplating expansion of a programme on care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS across the six high prevalence States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Negaland and Tamil Nadu, so as to include anti-retroviral drugs for specific target groups, through the public health- care system.